UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/740
9 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 95 (a)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/99

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 49/99 of 19 December 1994 on international trade and development, requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to make proposals for translating into concrete action the commitments made at the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, held at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 12 to 15 April 1994, regarding the least developed countries and net food-importing countries.

2. Pursuant to that request, and in the context of the work programme of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, the following progress has been made:

(a) As part of the preparations for the first session of the UNCTAD Ad Hoc Working Group on Trading Opportunities in the New International Trading Context, held from 9 to 13 October 1995, the UNCTAD secretariat organized at Geneva on 18 and 19 May 1995, an informal brainstorming meeting involving experts from international organizations, independent researchers, intergovernmental organizations and trade negotiators to explore appropriate policy options at the national and international levels for translating the commitments made at the Marrakesh Ministerial Meeting into concrete action. Given the informal character of the meeting, as agreed with the participants, no report was issued on its proceedings. However, the principal ideas emanating from the meeting were taken account of by the UNCTAD secretariat in formulating the recommendations contained in its report (TD/B/WG.8/3 and Add.1) to the above-mentioned Ad Hoc Working Group on Trading Opportunities in the New International Trading Context;

(b) That report, prepared to assist the Ad Hoc Working Group in the discharge of its mandate to analyse the modalities to give effect to the decisions on special provisions for the least developed countries as contained in the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, 1/ identifies policy options in the areas of trade, finance and technical cooperation for translating into concrete action the Marrakesh commitments regarding the least developed countries and net food-importing countries;

(c) At its first session, the Ad Hoc Working Group had an in-depth discussion on these issues (see the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (TD/B/WG.8/4)) and decided to seek to arrive at agreed conclusions on these and other matters at its final session, scheduled to be held from 4 to 8 December 1995;

(d) Lastly, it should be noted that, in accordance with the provisional agenda and annotations thereto established by the Trade and Development Board, the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which is to take place from 27 April to 11 May 1996, at Johannesburg, South Africa, will also consider, inter alia, proposals for translating into concrete action the commitments made at the Ministerial Meeting in Marrakesh regarding the least developed countries and net food-importing countries.

Notes

1/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales. No. GATT/1994-7), vol. 1.